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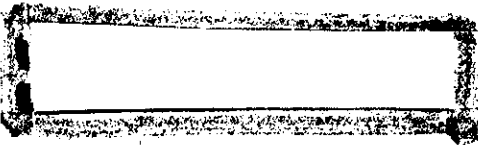
Tuesday, October 10, 1967  
8:40 p.m.

73  
*Pres file*

Mr. President:

These two reports on the mind of  
Hanoi will interest you.

W. W. Rostow



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By up, NARA, Date 7-21-95

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DIST 10 OCTOBER 1967

COUNTRY VIETNAM

DOI LATE AUGUST 1967

- SUBJECT
1. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM (NFLSV)
  2. ECONOMIC SITUATION IN NORTH VIETNAM

ACQ

FIELD NO.

SOURCE

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1. IN LATE AUGUST 1967, TRUONG CONG DONG, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM (NFLSV) DELEGATION TO HANOI STATED [REDACTED] THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE INTENSIFIED CONSIDERABLY IN THE FOLLOWING TWO OR THREE MONTHS AND, IN ALL PROBABILITY, THE AMERICANS WILL HAVE TO ESTABLISH MOBILE SHOCK COLUMNS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE EFFICACY OF THEIR ACTIONS AGAINST THE NFLSV. IN TURN, THE NFLSV IS PREPARED TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION AND IS PLANNING "FOR THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICANS MANY DIEN BIEN PHU-TYPE DEFEATS." ORGANIZATIONALLY

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AND POLITICALLY, THE NFLSV WILL BE ASSERTING ITSELF MORE ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. "WE ARE A POLITICAL FORCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WE WILL PROVE THIS TO THE WHOLE WORLD, EVEN WITH THE AMERICANS ALL OVER US."

2. AS FOR THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN NORTH VIETNAM IN AUGUST 1967, THE WAR HAS IMPOSED SERIOUS PRIVATIONS ON THE POPULATION. THE FOOD SITUATION CAN BE REFERRED TO AS CHRONIC FAMINE. THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION EATS ONLY ONE MEAL A DAY, CONSISTING OF RICE, VEGETABLES AND FRUIT. THIS IS A FACT, HOWEVER, THAT MANY VIETNAMESE IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS RECOGNIZE. THE MAY HARVEST WAS, IN GENERAL, POOR. AT PRESENT, IT IS BEING JEOPARDIZED BY DROUGHT WHICH COULD AFFECT THE OCTOBER HARVEST. ALL FOOD PRODUCTS ARE RATIONED, AND THE RATIONS INITIALLY PROVIDED FOR MANY PRODUCTS SUCH AS CIGARETTES, TEA, SUGAR AND MEAT, HAVE RECENTLY BEEN REDUCED.
3. THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF BOMBINGS IS CONTINUALLY INCREASING; THE HOSPITALS ARE FILLED TO CAPACITY. FREQUENT INCIDENTS OF BEGGING, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF CHILDREN, ARE SEEN IN THE STREETS OF HANOI. THERE IS INCREASING TALK OF WIDESPREAD PROSTITUTION.

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4. THE MORALE OF THE POPULATION REMAINS GOOD. IT APPEARS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE WAR AND THE EXISTING HARDSHIPS. SHELTERS ARE BUILT EVERYWHERE. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PARTY USES THE OLD SHELTERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH HAVE BEEN RENOVATED AND MODERNIZED.
5. THE ECONOMIC AID RECEIVED FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARRIVES IN GOOD CONDITION AND ACCORDING TO AGREEMENTS. THE VIETNAMESE PRAISE CHINA FOR ITS TIMELY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AID. ACCORDING TO THE VIETNAMESE, THE PRINCIPAL ROUTE OF AID AT PRESENT IS THROUGH CHINA. THIS ROUTE ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 70 TO 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL AID RECEIVED.

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